

I am extremely concerned about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to air "Stolen Honor," which according to every report I have read, is the equivalent of a two-hour ad for the Bush campaign, without airing an equivalent program which favors Kerry.

Not only does such an action violate electioneering laws which govern the use of public airwaves, it continues a pernicious trend of public airwaves being used to broadcast views which masquerade as news, but which in fact are political advertisements.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.